



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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May 17, 2010

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE:

WM-5
A3278

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber *Gail Farber*
Director of Public Works

Jonathan E. Fielding *Jonathan Fielding*
Director and Health Officer
Department of Public Health

BOARD MOTION OF FEBRUARY 23, 2010, AGENDA ITEM 26-C PROGRESS REPORT ON REMOVAL OF DISASTER-RELATED DEBRIS MATERIALS FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FACILITIES

On February 23, 2010, your Board approved a motion submitted by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich establishing that an emergency situation existed from the combination of devastating wildfires and subsequent winter storm debris runoff and posed extreme danger to many County of Los Angeles residents.

The motion instructed the Director of Public Works to grant a temporary 90-day exemption to the daily and weekly tonnage limits, waive fees, and extend the hours of operation at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and request other regulatory agencies to grant similar waivers to the Scholl Canyon Landfill to ensure proper management of debris runoff for the protection of public health and safety.

The motion also directed the Directors of Public Health and Public Works to report back to your Board within 90 days on the progress of removing the disaster-related debris materials (materials) from the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) debris protection facilities and any need to extend the waivers.

Upon approval of the Board motion, the LACFCD initiated cleanout operations to remove materials from debris protection facilities and transport them for deposition at the landfills. By effectively coordinating with the landfills' operators, the vast majority of the materials were accepted for beneficial use purposes at the landfills, rather than disposal. During the 90-day exemption, the facilities did not exceed the daily or weekly tonnage limits nor did operations extend beyond the hours in the Conditional Use Permit. In addition, the facility operators did not request waivers of conditions as provided in their respective Solid Waste Facility Permits to accommodate the receipt of materials.

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As a result, we were able to manage these materials within the landfills' permitted capacity limits. Furthermore, since the majority of the materials were beneficially used, the State and local fees were largely avoided. The LACFCD was also mindful of the potential impacts its cleanout operations would have on valuable landfill space and, more importantly, to communities along the truck haul routes to the landfills.

From February 23 to March 16, 2010, approximately 8,000 tons of materials were transported to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. From February 25 to April 23, 2010, nearly 125,700 tons were taken to the Scholl Canyon Landfill.

The respective local enforcement agency staff from the County of Los Angeles and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill continually monitored the materials to ensure that it did not contain contamination or hazardous waste and that the materials were placed and/or stockpiled in accordance with the materials management plan.

The LACFCD is continuing with cleanout operations for the remaining debris protection facilities throughout the summer months. Based on our assessments, the landfills remain a viable option as placement sites for materials collected from our debris protection facilities. We request that the waiving of fees at the landfills granted by your Board be extended.

At this time, there is no additional need to extend the temporary waivers regarding the exemption to the daily and weekly tonnage limits and extension of hours of operation at the landfills granted by your Board. However, the need for such waivers may arise in the upcoming storm season. Should these waivers be needed, we will return to your Board for authorization to waive.

If you have any questions regarding Public Works activities related to the disposal operations, please contact Mark Pestrella at (626) 458-4001 or mpestrella@dpw.lacounty.gov. If you have questions regarding the oversight at the landfills, please contact Cindy Chen at (626) 430-5550 or cchen@ph.lacounty.gov.

ML:jtz

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cc: Chief Executive Office (Lari Sheehan)
County Counsel
Department of Public Health
Executive Office